

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/725,547

Examiner

Gary C. Hoge

Applicant(s)

SKINNER, GREG. T.

Art Unit

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## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed June 22, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

HC

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Charles Fallow on August 31, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

--1. (currently amended) A display device for simulating a window and snow fall, said device comprising:

at least two front panes;

a rear panel;

a display opening between said front panes ~~and said rear panel~~;

an upper space between said front panes ~~and said rear panel~~, above said display opening;

a conduit extending in said frame on one side of said display opening;

a trough in said frame below said display opening where said conduit connects to a first end of said trough and said conduit has a nozzle to dispense imitation snow into said upper space;

means to cyclically open and close said upper space to empty snow into said display space; and

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an operating means for alternately allowing controlling the snow to enter entering  
said trough and ~~dispensing the snow into~~ said conduit for recycling and blocking the  
snow from entering said trough.--

--2. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 1 wherein said operating means  
comprises a first vane covering said trough and means for rotating said first vane into  
said trough whereby when said first vane covers said trough snow collects on it and  
~~empties the snow~~ is emptied into said trough as said first vane rotates.--

--3. (previously presented) A display device as in Claim 2 wherein said operating means  
includes an air fan to recycle said snow.--

--4. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 3 wherein said ~~operating means~~  
first vane has a shut off cap at right angles to said first vane and on one end thereof to  
periodically open and close said trough to said air fan.

--5. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 4 wherein said operating means  
controls the means to cyclically open and close ~~opening and closing of said vane in~~ said  
upper space.--

--6. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 5 wherein said ~~operating means~~ to  
cyclically open and close said upper space comprises a second vane, and wherein said

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operating means opens and closes said second vane ~~said in upper space~~ once every revolution of said first vane.--

--7. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 6 wherein said ~~operating means~~ first vane pushes a connecting rod attached to said second vane in said upper space to open said upper space when a first edge of said first vane contacts said connecting rod, wherein a second edge of said first vane is notched to avoid contacting said connecting rod.--

--8. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 7 wherein said first vane makes one complete revolution every four seconds.--

--9. (currently amended) A display device as in claim 8 wherein said shut off cap on said first vane blocks said air fan ~~means~~ 3 out of every 4 seconds at least in part ~~or totally~~ during the revolution of said first vane.--

--10. (currently amended) A display device as in Claim 9 further comprising ~~wherein said~~ ~~controlling means includes~~ a means to create an illusion of the snow swirling as it falls through the display.--

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 has been amended to correct the description of the invention by making it clear that the artificial snow is

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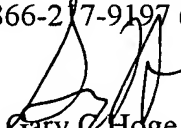
deposited between the two panes. Also, the operation of the operating means is more precisely described.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary C. Hoge whose telephone number is (571) 272-6645. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-27-9197 (toll-free).

  
Gary C. Hoge  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3611

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